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REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's position that claims 9 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of claim 9 and, now superfluous, claim 9 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claim 5 is claim 9 rewritten in independent form and thus is allowable, as are the claims which are dependent thereon. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

New claim 14 is claim 13 rewritten in independent form and thus is allowable. New claims 15, 16, 17 and 18 track claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 and thus do not comprise new matter, and being dependent on allowable claim 14 are themselves allowable.

In view of the amendments made therein, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection based on Honkonen et al. (U.S. 5,979,440), in view of Laskaris et al. (U.S. 6,442,949) is now moot and need not be further argued herein.

Applicants acknowledge the recitation of Rietdijk (U.S. 3,427,817), Rietdijk (U.S. 3,447,339), Rietdijk (U.S. 3,464,230) and Yanai et al. (U.S. 5,327,729) which were not applied against the claims. Suffice it to say that none of these references discloses or suggests applicants' claimed invention.

Inasmuch as the only claims pending are claims 5 and 14, which are allowable claims 9 and 13 rewritten in independent form, and the claims which are dependent thereon, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered inasmuch as no new issues are presented and the amendment serves to put the application into condition for allowance.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and, in view of the fact that all of the pending claims are allowable, a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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